



PAXTON

Worcester County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

Paxton is a small Worcester County community with a great store of reverence for its history and its past. Turkey Hill Brook was used for hunting and fishing by the Nipmucks, the Native Americans who lived in the region before any white settlers had arrived in the early 1700s. The brook also served as the site of the first mills, built to take advantage of the brook's 90-foot drop through a steep gorge. For the next 180 years, Turkey Hill Brook supplied power to a series of small mills that served the farmers who lived in the surrounding countryside.

Residents point with particular pride to Moore State Park, a 400-acre enclave which incorporates many of the historical sites in Paxton and combines them with the beauty of thousands of azaleas and rhododendrons planted by Florence Morton, one of the first women in Massachusetts to earn a degree in landscape architecture, and the Spaulding family, when this area was a private estate.

Paxton residents extend an open invitation to visitors to join them in savoring the richness of their past.

(Narrative supplied by community)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Central Massachusetts, bordered by Rutland on the north, Holden on the east, Worcester on the southeast, Leicester on the south, and Spencer and Oakham on the west. Paxton is 9 miles west of Worcester, 48 miles west of Boston, and 176 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 15.48 sq. miles

Land Area: 14.74 sq. miles

Population: 4,047

Density: 275 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Barre Falls Dam Station)

Normal temperature in January.....20.0°F

Normal temperature in July.....67.2°F

Normal annual precipitation.....42.1"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Paxton

Regional Planning Agency

Central Massachusetts

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Worcester



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (508) 753-2803

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1765

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	2,483		
Democrats	568	22.9	%
Republicans	468	18.8	%
Other parties	0	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	1,447	58.3	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Paxton town, Worcester County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	4,386	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	4,386	100.0
Male.....	2,096	47.8	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	68	1.6
Female.....	2,290	52.2	Mexican.....	4	0.1
Under 5 years.....	219	5.0	Puerto Rican.....	21	0.5
5 to 9 years.....	321	7.3	Cuban.....	-	-
10 to 14 years.....	344	7.8	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	43	1.0
15 to 19 years.....	409	9.3	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	4,318	98.4
20 to 24 years.....	352	8.0	White alone.....	4,215	96.1
25 to 34 years.....	375	8.5	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	675	15.4	Total population.....	4,386	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	641	14.6	In households.....	3,984	90.8
55 to 59 years.....	258	5.9	Householder.....	1,428	32.6
60 to 64 years.....	152	3.5	Spouse.....	1,029	23.5
65 to 74 years.....	334	7.6	Child.....	1,319	30.1
75 to 84 years.....	251	5.7	Own child under 18 years.....	1,007	23.0
85 years and over.....	55	1.3	Other relatives.....	109	2.5
Median age (years).....	38.1	(X)	Under 18 years.....	25	0.6
18 years and over.....	3,338	76.1	Nonrelatives.....	99	2.3
Male.....	1,553	35.4	Unmarried partner.....	52	1.2
Female.....	1,785	40.7	In group quarters.....	402	9.2
21 years and over.....	2,937	67.0	Institutionalized population.....	5	0.1
62 years and over.....	724	16.5	Noninstitutionalized population.....	397	9.1
65 years and over.....	640	14.6	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	298	6.8	Total households.....	1,428	100.0
Female.....	342	7.8	Family households (families).....	1,154	80.8
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	516	36.1
One race.....	4,347	99.1	Married-couple family.....	1,029	72.1
White.....	4,241	96.7	With own children under 18 years.....	467	32.7
Black or African American.....	30	0.7	Female householder, no husband present.....	86	6.0
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	4	0.1	With own children under 18 years.....	35	2.5
Asian.....	47	1.1	Nonfamily households.....	274	19.2
Asian Indian.....	7	0.2	Householder living alone.....	224	15.7
Chinese.....	11	0.3	Householder 65 years and over.....	118	8.3
Filipino.....	1	-	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	537	37.6
Japanese.....	4	0.1	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	426	29.8
Korean.....	11	0.3	Average household size.....	2.79	(X)
Vietnamese.....	5	0.1	Average family size.....	3.13	(X)
Other Asian ¹	8	0.2	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-	Total housing units.....	1,461	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	1,428	97.7
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	33	2.3
Samoa.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	occasional use.....	6	0.4
Some other race.....	25	0.6	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.5	(X)
Two or more races.....	39	0.9	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	1.3	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			HOUSING TENURE		
<i>or more other races: ³</i>			Occupied housing units.....	1,428	100.0
White.....	4,272	97.4	Owner-occupied housing units.....	1,354	94.8
Black or African American.....	42	1.0	Renter-occupied housing units.....	74	5.2
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	11	0.3	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.81	(X)
Asian.....	56	1.3	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.45	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	3	0.1			
Some other race.....	41	0.9			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State:	0
Conventional Federal:	0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP:	0
Federal (Section 8):	0



FINANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

[The Massachusetts Division of Employment and Training](#)

DET publishes the state's monthly employment and unemployment report, analyzes the condition of the state's economy, examines economic trends, and formulates industry and occupational projections. All of these are essential to public and private sector economists, employers, and public officials who use the information to formulate policy, craft law, and make strategic decisions for the future.

[Municipal Data Bank](#)

[Division of Local Services, Massachusetts Department of Revenue.](#)

The Municipal Data Bank collects, analyzes and distributes financial, demographic and economic data on Massachusetts cities and towns. Financial data comes from a series of reports that municipalities submit annually to the Division of Local Services. Demographic and economic data is collected from other state and federal agencies. The Data Bank develops and maintains systems to collect and distribute the information, assists users in interpretation and use, participates in research projects with other agencies and organizations, and distributes reports which summarize data analyses

[Division of Transitional Assistance](#)

The Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA), formerly known as the Department of Public Welfare, is the state agency responsible for administering public assistance programs for needy citizens of the Commonwealth



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Located in the Worcester area, which has three major cross-state highways: the Worcester Turnpike (Route 9), Route 20, and the Massachusetts Turnpike. I-495 borders to the east, I-190 links to the Fitchburg-Leominster area, I-84 and I-395 connect to Connecticut and points south. The region is well connected by rail and highway to the ports, airports, and intermodal facilities of Boston and Providence.

Major Highways

Principal highways are State Routes 31, 56, and 122.

Rail

Passenger rail service to Boston, Providence, Springfield, and all other points on the Amtrak network is available through neighboring Worcester.

Bus

Other

The Worcester Municipal Airport, a Primary Commercial (PR) facility with scheduled passenger service, is easily accessible. It has 2 asphalt runways 5,500' and 6,999' long. Instrument approach available: Precision and Non-precision.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

Moll Art Center, Anna Maria College
Sunset Lane
(508) 849-3441

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

None

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.